

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

MARCH 1944

Vol. 89, No. 3



AMERICAN YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READING THE BIBLE

(See page 45)

TRANSLATION

The Bible Everywhere

THE old question—"Do you believe the Bible is being read as much today as formerly?" can today be answered with a resounding yes. If one is thinking of America, the evidence is overwhelming. Testimony from the chaplains and from the men themselves would indicate that hundreds of thousands in our armed forces are reading God's Word regularly who for the most part never read it before. The testimony comes from hundreds of camps, posts, and naval stations across the land, and from men in North Africa, Italy, Iceland, England,

plied by the hundreds of thousands in 34 different languages among the 6,000,000 prisoners of war in Germany. The year before Germany prohibited the manufacture of Bibles in Norway, the Norwegian Bible Society published the largest number of Bibles in its history,—almost 100,000,—and it may be assumed that these are being read with deep earnestness. Word comes through from Holland that indicates a similar interest. These pages reflect in almost every issue the rapidly rising tide of interest in many sections of Latin America. China would un-

In response to requests for assistance in promoting the observance of Bible Sunday last December on the part of chaplains and men in the armed services, the following word was received:

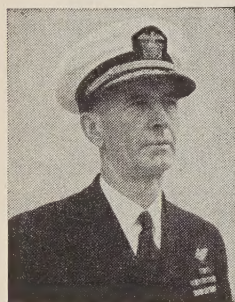
From General Dwight D. Eisenhower:—

I think that no soldier could wish you anything but the most complete success in your purpose of holding a Universal Bible Sunday. The longer one lives close to the turmoil and sacrifice and suffering of the battlefield, the more he becomes conscious of the eternal worth of the spiritual values inherent in the Christian religion. Moreover, because this war constitutes a direct conflict between the forces of evil and those of Christian

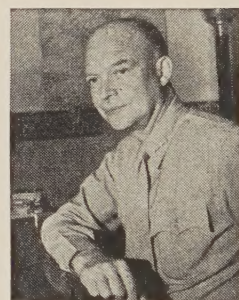
principles of human rights and dignity, every movement which increases general familiarization with those principles has a direct uplifting effect upon the soldiery and citizens of the United Nations. In such efforts, I stand ever ready to assist, and if this letter can help you in any way, you are at liberty to use it as you see fit.

From Admiral E. J. King:—

In war and in peace the American Bible Society and kindred organizations have been one of the principal means by which the Navy has been provided with the Scriptures. I know I speak for all the officers and men when I say the Navy joins gratefully in the celebration of Universal Bible Sunday.



Admiral King



General Eisenhower

the Aleutians, Australia, the Solomons, Hawaii, on every battle front.

The folks at home are keeping pace, in some instances because the boys who have gone to war have asked them to, but more often because the seriousness of the present situation has driven them to the source of their faith.

In the prison and detention camps of the country men are turning to the Word with eagerness. It is with difficulty that dealers in Bibles can keep their stocks complete, and, in the case of some publishers, their more popular editions are now drastically rationed.

There is also evidence that in other lands the Bible is in great demand. Whatever may be the case among the civilian population of Germany (the latest data obtainable indicated that the Bible was in growing demand), the Scriptures have been sup-

doubtedly be today the world's largest consumer of volumes of Scripture, if she could get them. Among the primitive tribes of Africa the Book is appearing every year in new tongues. The spread of literacy turns many eager eyes toward the sacred page. Indeed, the answer is yes. The Bible is not everywhere, but far nearer that superlative than any other book; and everywhere it is being opened and read with new interest and zeal. There follow a few testimonies gathered out of hundreds that have come to the desks at the Bible House.

Probably the most thrilling story is that of Stanley W. Tefft, of Toledo, Ohio. In a letter to his sister written from the naval hospital in Alameda, California, a few weeks ago, he revealed that natives on a South Pacific island, converted to Christ before the war, had won him and six other American fliers

(Continued on page 39)

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Volume 89

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Number 3

God Go with You!

by Chaplain Frederick W. Cropp, Jr.

Where are you going, Great-Heart, with your eager face and your fiery grace? Where are you going, Great Heart?

** "To fight a fight with all my might; for Truth and Justice, God and Right; to grace all Life with His fair Light."*

** Then God go with you, Great-Heart!—John Oxenham.*

THIS is it!"—and into the space allotted on the transport you wedge yourself, your "A" barracks bag, your pack, your gas mask, your helmet. You worm your way in among the equipment, eye the sagging bunk a few inches above you, stretch, and say to yourself, "Yes, this is it!" All about you men are doing the same; some are smoking, some joking, some just staring speculatively into the future. Soon the engines will throb, and slowly into the night you will shove off. This is it!

Into the lonely excitement of this transport trip come again and again thoughts of loved ones left behind. You look often and lovingly at the picture in your wallet or Testament. You read again a letter which you know by heart. You idly riffle the pages of the Testament. Suddenly a verse leaps from the page to take on new meaning—"I am with you always." Somehow the cloud of loneliness lifts a little, and you are dazzled by the reality of an idea which has been a commonplace belief all your life. Of course,—you realize it now,—God goes along!

There will be times when fear will shake you to near panic. You know that your training has been pointed toward the day when you will look death in the face. On maneuvers, wounds and deaths and capture by the enemy were simulated. Now they will be real. There will be bullets and bursting shells. There will be open wounds and deeper mental disorders. There will be dying and death. To bring the supporting companionship of God very close to you in that day, prepare now by saying to yourself as frequently as the icy idea of fear comes, "I will fear no evil, for God is with me." The calm assurance of this thought has helped millions of

brave men to face danger with quiet strength. God go with you, and banish fear!

Ahead of you, on that yet unnamed shore, there will be temptations to despoil your every leisure moment. All the home moorings will be strained by this testing. The foreign setting may cloak evil with an allure not known back home. And some of your soldier friends will get off the beam abroad who were not tempted overmuch by the same allurements at home.

Be sure of this: the test will come to your Christian way of life. Are you ready for it? When the time comes, when your standards and scruples are not enough, chiefly because they are merely that; "when vows grow dim, and men dare do what once they scorned," you will come through clean, because it is "not what, but Whom" that makes the difference.

"I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest" is more than a verse from the Bible to be remembered. This is a guiding rule for your choice of places to go and things to do. For that is one of the things your loved ones meant when they said to you, "God bless you," or, "God be with you." They were thinking of times when temptations would assail you.

For all of us there will be poignant homesickness and times of utter loneliness. What then? Ah, here our companionship with our Heavenly Father becomes most real. For God is here, now. Here God exerts his timeless ministry to his children by being with them, no matter where they are. Read the Bible. Hear the chaplain. There is everywhere the assurance of the nearness, the availability and

*[*By way of postscript, it is suggested that you form the daily habit of reading your Bible or Testament until you find, each day, some word which speaks directly to you of the nearness of God. As a start we commend the Psalms, especially the 23d, 27th, 91st, and 121st, and all the words of Jesus.]*

the unique comradeship of God himself. Make this item of your belief a definite part of your life. Then the lump of loneliness will disappear; the faces and voices of your family and friends will come more

clearly to you, and a genuine peace of mind and heart will be yours.

God go with you, comrade, and you will never walk alone!

• • •

Hurry Along with Brazil

by Charles W. Turner

WE are all familiar with the fact that the American Bible Society came into being nearly one hundred thirty years ago, in response to the growing need for Christian spiritual reinforcement among the growing number of inhabitants in our newly opening Middle West. Its primary purpose was to provide the Holy Scriptures for this specific need; and during the long years that have since gone by, the Society has continued to minister to similar needs on a world-wide scale, within its capacity to supply.

It was a rugged field out on the middle western frontier into which the workers of the Bible Society, together with home missionaries and circuit riders of the Christian church, first entered. But, how richly productive of good these labors were! It would be impossible to compute their real value in terms of dollars and cents. Such results belong in

of the venture initiated by the early group of Christian men and women who felt so deep a faith in the abiding influence the Bible could exert upon human life, that gladly they offered their time, their money, their effort, and their prayers to help make it available to others less fortunately placed than themselves. We, therefore, have this Christian heritage today, because others, long years before our day and through many successive generations, labored and sacrificed, that we might have it.

To the south of us we have a great and friendly neighbor of vast physical resources that offers large-scale opportunities in all aspects of human endeavor—Brazil. Occupying almost half the southern continent, and with a population of 45,000,000 people, the religious and spiritual needs of her wellnigh illimitable interior—dotted with thousands of small villages and rural communities—present a striking resemblance to conditions that obtained in the early stages of our own Middle Western and Western development close to a century ago. Unnumbered rural communities in this Brazilian interior and on the banks of its great rivers have no Christian witness whatever, not even a copy of the Bible from which might be gleaned—as millions have found for themselves—an understanding of God's purpose and will for mankind. Thousands of Bibleless villages mean thousands upon thousands of persons who know nothing of the Christ who lived and died and rose for their redemption; nor of the quality of life he came to bring. Whatever may be our philosophy of Christian missions, the undeniable fact, which clearly emerges from the definite spiritual need here depicted, is that such a need represents an unparalleled challenge and opportunity to the Bible Society—a challenge and opportunity, in fact, of the kind which the Bible Society, in our own country, was brought into existence to meet.

The processes and activities of our complex civilization are steadily closing in on this vast Brazilian interior, and will do so with ever-increasing rapidity during the next few years. We of the Bible Society, therefore, must be alert to appreciate the import of this trend, and to provide the necessary means and



Rio de Janeiro—throbbing heart of Brazil

an entirely different category. They belong to the category of the imponderables which reveal themselves in the form of daily Christian living, of healthy and happy family circles, of worthy and constructive citizenship.

The Bible Society has had a share in this great and lasting work. And, as we look back down these many years, we can, in a measure, evaluate the significance

measures with which to meet it; so that the Bible, with the wealth of spiritual truths it reveals, shall also have its opportunity to make the contribution it was eternally meant to make. We of the Bible Society must be ahead of all comers with our specific contribution toward the new estate into which Brazil is rapidly entering.

Today, Brazil is reaching toward a greater degree of self-consciousness and unity of purpose than ever before in her history. New industries, some of them on a vast scale, are springing up throughout the land, revealing untold potentialities. Today, unprecedented emphasis is being devoted toward extending literacy. The advance of popular education continues apace in all regions. Today, a clearer comprehension is evident among all classes in Brazil concerning the deeper meanings of the great and essential freedoms for which the United Nations (among which Brazil whole-heartedly belongs) are staking their all. This trend brings in its train a greater receptivity toward things spiritual. Today, the vast regions of inland Brazil are being opened up as never before through government initiative in the building of highways, of railroads, through intensified river traffic, and ever-new air routes. Today, also, a comprehensive program of sanitation is in active execution throughout the vast Amazonian Basin, which will render healthful hundreds of thousands of square miles of territory.

And what does all this mean in its total significance so far as the Bible Society is concerned? In the first place, it is tantamount to the discovery of a new continent. It means that the erstwhile extent of our Brazilian field is practically being doubled! Increasing needs, which the Bible Society should supply, will become more and more apparent, awaiting our favorable action toward them. Secondly, and immeasurably more important, the implications in the present-day Brazilian situation mean that the Bible must increasingly be given the opportunity to have its vital part, along with other numerous forces that are influencing and molding the spirit of Brazil, whose people, singly or in groups, are playing their part in the drama of nation-building which is being enacted in that great republic.

In his book descriptive of Brazil, which appeared about two years ago, Stefan Zweig characterized the greatest of all our South American neighbors as "a land of the future," the potentialities of which had yet to be developed. Today, however,—and it would almost seem in direct answer to Zweig's challenge,—Brazilians have definitely commenced to transform the future into the present. They have begun in earnest, as it were, to make the future possibilities of Zweig's characterization come to fruition in our own day.

And we of the Bible Society must needs capture the same spirit, applying it to our particular sphere



A colporteur in Brazil offers his books in a town market

of endeavor. We must work today in the spirit of that future we hope to see Brazil achieve. We must so give ourselves to this task, that it may be ours to see today a clear foregleam of that future of spiritual achievement we envisage for the Brazilian people.

Long years ago a Hebrew poet wrote some memorable words whose implications are essentially the same today as they were on the day the words were first written. Here they are: "Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage forever" (Psalm 119:111). Those lovers of the Bible and friends of the Bible Society who understand the spirit of this ancient sage will also understand the responsibility which the possession of this goodly heritage of Biblical treasure necessarily entails. And, above everything else, they will wish to help meet the challenge and the marvelous opportunity with which the Brazil of our day presents them.

General MacArthur and the Bible

Early in August it was the privilege of the Queensland Secretary of the Bible Society in Australia to be granted an interview with General MacArthur. He writes:—

I had to see him on Bible Society business. When our business was completed, we sat talking. I had brought with me a copy of the Society's popular report to present to the General, should the opportunity present itself. As I offered it, I said, "If you ever have any time that would resemble leisure time, Sir, you will find this book interesting." Said the General to me, "I always make leisure time for things that are good; and, believe me, Sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed." I cannot quite express my feelings as I heard the General speak; but I do know that my heart expanded in gratitude to God that our American cousins here in Australia have such a good and, I believe, a godly man at the head of the American forces."

Shipbuilders Read the Gospels

by Reverend Robert V. Marble



Mr. Marble

BLOWING with full steam, the four-thirty whistle told the afternoon shift that the rivets, the cranes, the torches, and the rest of the tools could now be turned over to the new crew, who would work into the night. Out of the hulls of half-built ships, out of the machine-shops, and out of the monotonous rows of offices, came a moving ocean of eight thousand steam-fitters, clerks, riveters, welders, carpenters, machinists, electricians, draftsmen, stenographers, executives, and laborers. Traffic policemen's whistles screamed as hundreds of cars began to move out. Newsboys strained their lungs and grabbed nickels as fast as they could draw back their hands from sales. Mud-covered gray busses stood with their ramshackle bodies rattling from the vibrations of running motors. They were soon filled to the doors, and groaned their ways out of the crowd. They made their way to outlying areas around Orange, Texas, where forty thousand workers were living in trailers, tents, shacks, and prefabricated government houses.

Out of the mass of helmeted workers one stream made its way toward the nearby train which stood ready to move seven hundred tired men over to Beaumont. Quickly, they began to fill the seats, everyone of which had had placed in it a copy of St. John's Gospel. Surprised at first, the men looked at these little visitors to their seats. A few put them down again after a glance. Many placed them in their dirty pockets. Many settled back in their seats and read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," as the train began to pick up speed. The "Word" began working its wondrous ways in the hearts of men.

Those Gospels were in the train seats because of concern that the American Bible Society and the local churches had in reaching, with the printed Word of God, these war workers. Orange, Texas, had been chosen as the place for a "Bible crusade" because of the forty or fifty thousand workers of all trades who had been drawn to this area by the shipbuilding industry. Out of every section of the country they had brought their families and suitcases to claim their share of high wages.

Since Orange had been a little town of seven thou-

sand population, there were not places for them to live. Trailers by the hundreds halted and baked in the Texas sun. Thousands of tent stakes were sunk in the ground. Out of the swamps arose government housing projects with their monotonous rows of gray dwellings. Food was scarce. Schools were swamped. Medical attention was for the few. Prices vaulted. Money flowed fast. King Boom was on the throne, governing all within his domains.

In the midst of all this, thousands of persons who had been uprooted from farms and city blocks back home, felt out of place in a strange land. Church memberships and Bible reading had been left behind. Christian and non-Christian joined hands in church absenteeism. The movies overflowed, and the churches hardly seemed to feel the effects of the pulsing life of thousands of new people. The American Bible Society and the Orange ministers said, "These people must be reached with the Word of God, with a visit from a Christian and an invitation to church."

These people must be visited, because they were not just a mass of workers. They were individual children of God, many of whom were eager to respond to God's call. There was Sam Bailey, for instance, who, with his wife and two children, had been a good Baptist family in Oklahoma from where they had come three months before. They were waiting till the war was over, and they should go back home to resume their church work.

Sam had been one of those thousands who poured out of the gates when the afternoon shift came off. After he had reached the camp and had eaten supper from the tiny foot-table, he peered out of the trailer window and saw people (there must have been thirty of them) pouring out of cars and scattering about among the scores of trailers. All of them were carrying handful of small booklets. One of them, a dark-haired and eager-eyed young lady, approached Sam's trailer and knocked on the side. Sam's wife moved from the seven-quart sink to the door, and was met with—

"Good evening. I'm representing the American Bible Society and the churches of Orange. We're conducting a "Bible crusade," and I'd like you to have some copies of St. John's Gospel to read while you are with us in Orange. Would you like to have some for yourself and your family? We want everybody to be reading this Gospel during this crusade."

"Yes," returned Mrs. Bailey, as she received four

copies of St. John's Gospel from the young lady's hand. We've done a lot of Bible reading in our family; but I'm afraid we haven't done much of it since we came to Orange. My husband works so much, and we haven't really gotten settled yet."

"Have you been to church since you came?"

"No; I'm afraid we have been slipping there too. We came from Oklahoma. There we went to the Baptist church all the time. We hope to go here, but we just haven't got started."

"We hope you won't put it off any longer, and that you'll become a part of Orange church life while you're here. Let these Gospels help you to remind you of God and his church."

"We will do that," said Mrs. Bailey.

But the people weren't all like Sam Bailey and his family. There were thousands who had never belonged to a church or cared much for the Bible. There were a few who had already entered Orange churches. Some were men or boys, single and lonely while away from home. There were Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, Assembly of God people, Nazarenes, intellectuals, cynics, agnostics, just plain thoughtless or indifferent people, and all the rest.

The "Bible crusaders" visited them all—about 3,500 homes, trailers, tents, and individuals—and gave them the Word of God. With very few exceptions the workers and their families received the Gospels eagerly, and felt thereafter closer to the

people and churches of Orange as well as to God.

All of the blessings of the "crusade" were not received by the recipients of the little Gospels, however. About fifty people of the Orange churches gave much of their time during the crusade month of July last summer. Many of them testified that it was a real spiritually uplifting experience to visit so many of these new people and talk to them about religion, the Bible, and the church, while they shared with them the Scriptures from the Bible Society. Each evening, before the workers started out to the homes, songs were sung and prayers were lifted to God to bless the distribution of his Word. It was because their hearts were in the work that more than sixteen thousand Gospels and more than six hundred Bible and Testaments found their way into the hands of those new people in about three weeks' time.

One of the other fine results of the "Bible crusade" was the fact that most of the churches of Orange cooperated either in furnishing workers or finances to make the work possible. Headquarters for the work was established in the First Baptist Church; but several other ministers and churches joined in the work, which received much of God's blessings.

As for myself, I am very thankful to have been able to have a part in such a large effort in distributing God's Word. May much of the seed sown have fallen on "good ground."

(Continued from inside front cover)

to Christ. The seven men were marooned on the island for eighty-seven days. Some of the natives, of whom there were about two hundred, could speak English, and their first act was to give Tefft and his companions a Bible. "Every night we would gather around the fire, sing gospel songs, and take turns reading the Bible," Tefft wrote. The men eventually put out on rafts, and were rescued by an American scouting plane. "The only thing that brought us back," wrote Stanley to his sister, "was faith. You can tell the world I am now a devout Christian."

A chaplain from Fort Riley, Kansas, in a letter to Secretary Boyd, wrote:—

What a blessed thing it is to have the Word in your heart as well as on paper. A few Sundays ago I was having a service in the post guardhouse. For the Scripture lesson I took the twenty-third Psalm. As I recited it, the men began to join in, and before we were finished, every man was repeating that choice gem. Men get comfort and assurance from that psalm as much as from any other part of the Word. The Word certainly endures, and men in the Army are finding its abiding reality as never before.

The vast armada of transport vessels is fruitful soil for the distribution of the Scriptures. Writes one chaplain in this service:—

During the month we placed fourteen waterproofed Scriptures on lifeboats and liferafts of Army transports, in conformity with recent official instruction. We also continued our important service of supply for overseas chaplains. Our chaplains on transport duty have done excellent work. Our Negro chaplain was loaned for one trip to serve Negro personnel; his service was of outstanding merit; some 3,000 were kept contented and happy through his efforts.

During the first offensive in the Solomons an American soldier wrote home:—

This morning I came upon some natives building a grass hut. One black boy was perched on top of the center support, singing the hymn "Jesus Christ is risen today" in his own tongue. It was, at first, quite a shock to me. I called up to him, and he came down from his perch and began to sing again. I joined him in English. How strange to hear this primitive boy and myself singing praises to our God! Truly, the brotherhood of God knows no bounds.

A student in the naval unit studying at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, wrote Secretary Mann:—

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the New Testament presented to me, upon request, by our professor of religion here, made possible by the American Bible Society.

I am sure—regardless of where my task may require me



to go, and of conditions under which I may have to survive—I will find the story of the Great Commander and his eternal order of the day a very great help, as I read and study its universal principles.

From Camp Ellis, Illinois, comes this word from a grateful chaplain:—

We were still unwrapping the packages of Bibles when a soldier looked in the office door and said, "Oh, Bibles! I've been wanting one which I could have to read for myself." So, of course, we gave him one with the leaflet "How to Read the Bible" and sent him on to be a better soldier for both God and country.

We feel that you people are our most reliable source of "unquestionably good" literature, and I want to thank you for all you are doing for the men.

A chaplain from a naval air station in Pennsylvania wrote:—

I received today the two hundred copies of the small blue New Testament. I am deeply grateful for this generous supply. While opening the boxes, a WAVE and one of the sailors both asked for a copy; so you see that there is a quick and ready demand for them.

Solace for prisoners of war. No group, however small or isolated, is neglected by the chaplain. He raises his flag, and the men assemble, as here at an outpost in Alaska



Time out for the Gospel for the antiaircraft crew

From a chaplain, serving with an antiaircraft artillery group, comes this sincere acknowledgment:—

The New Testaments arrived all in good order, and I want to express my deepest appreciation for them. One can scarcely pick up a newspaper or magazine nowadays without reading of some boy who has been helped, when he was in a tight spot, by having a copy of the Holy Scriptures with him. If just one of the many Testaments it is our privilege to present, brings such aid, the whole effort has been very worthwhile.

A friend in Tennessee writes of a lad who had earned a New Testament by reading the four Gospels: As a result of his reading, he accepted Christ. Just before his oil tanker was reported missing with all aboard, he had telephoned his home, saying:—

Don't worry about me. Wherever I go, my Testament goes, and I'm believing its promises.

Our correspondent continues:—

The boys learn to love these plain little Testaments, because they find the Lord while reading them.



The pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, Mississippi, wrote Secretary North about Christmas time:—

The shipment of German Bibles reached us some ten days ago. We distributed them to the German war prisoners at a worship service conducted in their compound on last Sunday afternoon. The men were delighted to receive them. Numbers wished to have me autograph the books. I tried to explain through the interpreter that they were gifts of the American Bible Society, and that I was merely distributing them. They still wanted the autograph, and each time I signed, "Gift of the American Bible Society—presented by Paul Tudor Jones, minister Presbyterian Church, Greenville, Mississippi." When all the Bibles were handed out, there was still a long queue standing. We told these men that, if a count were made to see how many men still wanted Scriptures, we would try to secure them. The officials at the camp are to let me know in the next few days, and I will write you.

When our service was over, and we walked back through the compound, we could look into the tents and see the men sitting on their cots, reading the Bible. An American sergeant, who played the little portable organ for us, and who, by the way, is a native of England, remarked: "I wonder if our boys in prison camps would be as eager to get copies of the Bible."

Mr. H. T. Marroquin, of the Society's Agency in Mexico, writes late in November with a glow of enthusiasm:—

It is my privilege to enclose herewith a bank draft on New York payable to the American Bible Society in the amount of one thousand dollars, which you will kindly

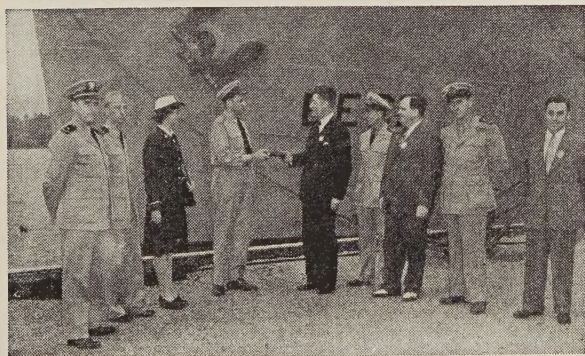
credit to the Mexico Agency as a gift from the Christian churches and individuals of Mexico for the Bible Society work in general. It is with profound joy and with sincere gratefulness to God for the wonderful work which the American Bible Society is carrying on in the midst of these perilous times, that the Christian people of Mexico contribute prayerfully with their modest free-will gifts toward the support of this great missionary enterprise, which has been a real spiritual blessing to thousands and thousands of souls in this country through the ministry of the printed Word of God in their own tongue.

THE CHAPLAIN

*I saw him kneel in a foreign land;
I felt his touch on a fevered hand;
I heard him cheering a lonely heart,
And sensed the faith that his words impart;
I watched him ministering in the fray—
His only weapon the power to pray,
His sheltering shield the love of Christ
That in all the ages hath sufficed
To smooth the warrior's weary way,
And keep his trust in a better day.
O Christ of the chaplains everywhere,
Thy Church would offer a fervent prayer
Of gratitude for these whose sword,
The flaming Testament of thy Word,
Is shining bright in the battle night
And claiming victory for the Right!*

—H. Victor Kane

Bibles for Escort Ships



THE escort vessels had more than three thousand pieces of equipment, but not a single Bible.

This was the situation which Dr. Harrison Ray Anderson found when he went down to Calumet Harbor Shipyards to take part in the launching of one of the vessels which had been constructed by the Pullman Standard Company. Dr. Anderson asked the officer in command if the Navy would like Bibles for the ships, and the assent was immediate.

Dr. Anderson, minister of Fourth Presbyterian Church, then called the Chicago Bible Society, and asked what could be done in a cooperative enterprise. It was agreed that the Bible Society and Fourth Presbyterian Church would share in placing a Bible on each vessel. These Bibles were promptly delivered to the Pullman Standard Company, and one was given in a presentation ceremony which is pictured here. Dr. Anderson is handing the Bible to Lt. Lindgaard.

The Bible Society has also sent a supply of New Testaments, which are in the hands of the commanding officers to be presented to those members of the crew who desire Testaments to read.

On July 6, Dr. Anderson gave a Bible to Lt. L'Estrange of the British Navy, who had come in with his crew to get one of the P. C. E. Boats. The vessel was commissioned several weeks later, and for the first time in the history of Chicago, a British ship was in Chicago waters flying the fighting flag of the British Navy.

"So does the Bible accompany the men who go down to the sea in ships."

Pedro's Bible

A story for children adapted from "Prison Life in Brazil"

by Mrs. Oscar Tressel

PEDRO was a prisoner in a dark Brazilian prison. For over ten years he had dragged out a wretched existence. He had been sentenced to thirty years' imprisonment, and he still had twenty years to serve. The prospect of another twenty years' confinement in the filthy prison cell he now occupied, stretched drearily before him.

One day something happened that changed Pedro's entire life. An English missionary passed through the prison yard. He had been given permission by the warden to distribute leaflets and other literature to the prisoners through the little barred windows of their cells.

As he was passing out the literature, Pedro came to the bars of his cell and asked, "Do you have a Bible you could give me?"

While Pedro could not read, he felt, if someone gave him a book, he might somehow teach himself to read. At any rate, it would relieve the awful grayness of the years that were still ahead of him, and would perhaps save his reason—many of his fellow prisoners had lost theirs.

The missionary was glad to find a man who really wanted a Bible. So, on his next visit to the prison, he brought Pedro one. Pedro at once set himself the task of learning to read this treasure. He made very slow progress, as he had to spell out each word again and again. But, as he had nothing else to occupy his mind for the endless days that followed in such deadly monotony, by slow degrees he accomplished the task he had set for himself to do.

He poured over his precious volume day after day. When he had learned to read well enough to know what the book was about, he was gripped by its contents. "Why," he said to himself, "this book tells me that I am a condemned sinner in the sight of God."

As he read further, he exclaimed, "God's own Son—Jesus Christ—died for me on the cross!"

How glad he was to learn that Jesus had died for his sins also, and that he was no longer a condemned sinner in the sight of God!

Pedro accepted his Saviour in simple faith; and, through the Word of God which he read in his precious Bible, the light of God shone into his dark heart and made out of Pedro a new creature. His dismal, gloomy cell did not seem nearly as dark now; for the precious light which shone in his heart brightened even his foul, dreary prison cage.

From early morning, when the first rays of the sun shone into his den, until the dying day shut out the light, Pedro diligently read and reread his precious Bible. And the Holy Spirit guided him and taught him its meaning.

After several years, the English missionary again came to that city where Pedro still lay in jail. This time he sent some of his helpers to the prison with tracts for the prisoners. When they returned, they said:

"We found a prisoner there who has a Bible; he spoke to us so intelligently, that he must be a Christian."

Then the missionary remembered Pedro, the man to whom he had given a Bible. He hastened to the prison, and asked permission to speak to the prisoner. He was taken to the barred window of the filthy cell where Pedro had lived for more than fifteen years. It was the same window through which he had given Pedro the Bible some years ago.

When Pedro heard his name called, he made his way to the little window. And when he saw the man who had given him his precious Bible, he thrust his hand through the bars to thank the missionary for the precious gift he had given him.

The missionary was amazed to see what a different man reading the Bible had made of Pedro. His once sullen face was lit with a radiant smile. When it was time for the missionary to leave, Pedro begged him to come again; for there were so many things he wanted to talk over with him. The missionary came as frequently as possible. At the end of the month he came to pay his farewell visit to the prisoner.

He found him downhearted and very much troubled. "What is the matter, Pedro?" he asked. "This is the first time you haven't met me with a smile."

Pedro answered, "I am sad for two reasons: I am sorry you are leaving, and I will see you no more. But the thing that is troubling me even more, is I would like so very much to be baptized before you go. I have read in the Bible the Lord's command about baptism, and I have set my heart on being baptized."

The missionary tried to explain to him that he was afraid this would be impossible, as the authorities would not permit him to come into his cell. Pedro was heartbroken and would not be consoled, even when the missionary explained to him that God, who

knows all things, would understand that it was impossible for Pedro to be baptized under the circumstances, and no doubt he would accept the will for the deed.

A few hours later, as the missionary was making final preparations for leaving the next day, a soldier from the prison brought him a note from Pedro. In this note Pedro wrote him that the head jailer had selected two prisoners to help carry the sweepings from the prison to the river at six o'clock the next morning, and that he was one of the men chosen for this task. Now, if the missionary could arrange to be there at that time, his desire might be fulfilled, and could be baptized.

The next morning, when the little company wended its way to the river, the missionary was there waiting, and the soldiers who accompanied the

prisoners allowed the missionary to baptize Pedro at the river's brink.

Pedro was so overjoyed, that after the simple ceremony he cheerfully went back to fifteen more years of prison life.

The soldiers were so impressed, that later four of the five who had accompanied Pedro to the river became Christians.

Pedro not only continued studying his Bible, but he told all of his fellow prisoners who would listen to him the wonderful story of Jesus, who had come to save even poor, condemned criminals like themselves.

Many of the prisoners openly confessed Christ; but no one but God will ever know how much good was accomplished by the Bible that the missionary gave Pedro.

• • •

The Testament That Was Not Destroyed

by Kate Ellen Gruver

AMONG the very small group of missionaries working with the Jewish people in Palestine is an even smaller number who have taken up the responsibility of getting the Gospel message into the four hundred or more Jewish colonies that have sprung up throughout the land. In these colonies, for the most part the result of Zionistic effort to rebuild a Jewish Palestine, there has been an almost total absence of Christian witness; and the work that has been done among them in very recent years has grown out of the prayers and efforts of one young British woman, and of a few others who later caught the vision that had come to her.

Because of the great number of colonies and the scarcity of messengers, the work has necessarily been of an itinerant nature. The first urgent need was felt to be at least one visit to every colony in the land, meeting as many individuals as possible, holding personal conversations with them, and leaving with all who would accept, Testaments, Gospels, and tracts. Many have criticized these brief, solitary visits, declaring that no real good could come of such fleeting witness; and that it was useless to attempt work among the colonies, unless definite follow-up work could be carried on. Yet, because of the urgency of the times, those few who had felt the call and had taken up the work pressed on, and here and there came evidence that God was bearing out the truth of the promise these missionaries claimed: "My word shall not return unto me void."

It was early June 1941, when a Hebrew-Christian friend approached two of the young women who had been most active in this itinerant Jewish work, and asked them if they could come to her apartment the next morning. A certain Jewish friend of hers,

Miss Gruver, at the right, with two fellow missionaries, just as they returned from a hot day's itinerating in northwest Palestine. The literature bags are empty.



she said, would like so much to meet them. As they entered the home of this Hebrew-Christian woman the next morning, a young woman rose and crossed the room, looking at the two missionaries intently. Then, with clasped hands, said: "Oh, at last I've found you. At last I've found you!"

Completely confounded, the two missionaries

looked their amazement, wondering who this woman was, and why she had been looking for them. She saw their questioning eyes, and smiled, as she re-seated herself, saying: "You don't remember me. Wait, let me tell you my story."

And, simply and quietly, she began. Almost two years earlier, these two missionaries had appeared on her doorstep, and had offered her the gift of a New Testament. Refusing angrily, she had discovered that they had been going from door to door all morning in her particular colony, talking with Jewish residents of other houses about Jesus of Nazareth, and giving Testaments to all who would accept. Infuriated, she had flung her accusations at them against Christ, against Christianity, against Christians. With searing words, she had rebuked them as Christians for the part Christendom had played through the centuries in the persecution of the Jews. With scorn and contempt, she steadily refused both conversation and the offered book.

It was the policy of the missionaries that one of them—whoever happened to begin the conversation—would do the talking, while the other remained in silent earnest prayer; and that day, under the bombardment of angry words, both had been praying very hard. Suddenly, the irate woman quieted, held out her hand, and said: "Oh, all right give me a Testament!" And taking the little book, went inside and closed the door. The interview was over, and with grateful hearts the missionaries went on their way.

For days and weeks, this Jewish woman was kept on their prayer list; but, as other cases crowded in, she was gradually dropped and, with the passing of the months, forgotten. That is, until this day when she sat there eagerly telling her story to the two missionaries for whom she had looked so long. Several months earlier she had begun her search for "the two women who go about distributing Testaments." At first, the questioning had been casual and discrete, so as not to arouse the suspicions of other Jews; then, as one clue led to another, she had finally met a mutual Hebrew-Christian friend who was sure she knew the ones wanted.

At first,—this radiant new convert said,—there

had been the intention to destroy the little book; but for some reason it remained on the cabinet shelf, until one day she found it in her hands without knowing just how it got there. Frightened, she had flung it away—still intending to destroy it, yet never doing so. Again and again, she would pick it up, almost unconsciously, and read first a phrase, then a sentence, then verses, passages. At last she made up her mind to read it outright. After all, it was only a book and couldn't harm her. And so it began. As her interest increased, there came more earnest study and comparison with Old Testament writings and teachings.

Being a teacher in the school in her colony, she knew the discouragements of trying to teach a class a certain lesson when they refused to learn that lesson. And so the time had come when, in the spirit of a pupil, she had begun to search for "her teachers" to tell them that she had at last learned the lesson they had wanted to teach her that other day on the doorstep. She had found that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, the promised Messiah!

It is, of course, rare that such experiences as this come to one in Palestine. Jewish persecution makes it difficult for one to come out openly for Christ. Even this confession was a secret one, because the woman was as yet unwilling to face the social and economic ostracism of her Jewish people that an open profession would bring down upon her. Yet, it was a sincere confession that, through the reading of the New Testament, she had found her Messiah. Hundreds like her have, in the last few years, found a new attraction in Christ and a new appreciation for his claims to bring peace to their aching souls, as they have read the little books that have been placed in their hands.

The gift of a Testament, Gospel, or tract is seldom refused by the Jewish people of Palestine; and today every Jewish colony out there has been visited at least one time by the messengers bearing such gifts. On the occasions when the missionaries have been able to visit a colony a second time, individuals interviewed the first time have been met again and have warmed the hearts of the visitors with such testimonies as this: "Yes, I read it. I didn't want to, but *something* about it attracted me."

• • •

New Scriptures Arrive in Africa

RECORD readers will recall the story in the July (1943) issue of how the first printed New Testament in the Kijita language for tribesmen living in the Tanganyika, Central Africa, was taken back by missionaries who, only a little more than a year before, had brought the manuscript with

them on their furlough in the United States.

Word was received on October 13, 1943, of the safe arrival on the field of the Reverend Frank E. Manning and three cases of the Testament published less than a year ago.

About the same time a letter came from the

Reverend C. C. Ellenberger, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Mission at Kankan, West Africa, reporting the reception accorded the Malinké New Testament which the Society, in cooperation with the National Bible Society of Scotland, published in 1943. Mr. Ellenberger writes:—

The purpose of my letter is to tell you about the impressive dedicatory service held for our Malinké New Testament the first Sunday (August 1) after our arrival. It was held at the headquarters station, with the native congregation and a number of missionaries present. I had the privilege of presiding and giving the message. After the preliminaries, a native evangelist read an appropriate passage from the new book; and then one of the missionaries read a passage. In my message I told them of taking the manuscript when we went on furlough in

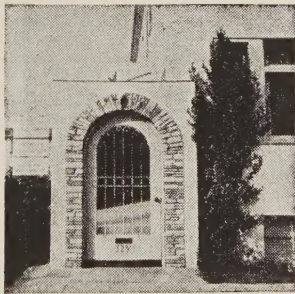
December 1939; how I had it done up in a package, and intended, if our ship was torpedoed, to tie it on my person so as to get it home safely. Then I told of presenting it to you brethren of the Bible Society, and of your joy in receiving and printing it—the Word of God in another African tongue never before printed; also of your making it possible for the native church to purchase it for such a small part of the cost price. All present voted to send you thanks and appreciation for the beautiful book. Then one of the lady missionaries sang “Wonderful words of life”; and with the congregation standing, the vice chairman of the mission offered the prayer of dedication.

I can assure you that the book is loved and carried in many native pockets; yes, and read daily by the people. It is having a good sale, and will bring light and salvation to many in these tribes.

• • •

Welcoming A. G. Blair

ALTHOUGH Mr. Alfred G. Blair is a newcomer in the Bible Society family, having been appointed Associate Secretary of the Pacific District, assuming his duties on October 1, 1943, Bible distribution is nothing new to him. A retired insurance man, Mr. Blair, several years ago, established Bible Center, Inc., at his home 325 Ramona



This is Mr. Blair . . . And this is his headquarters

Street, Pasadena, California. For many years his ideal was to supply every Bibleless home of Pasadena with a Bible. Since Pearl Harbor he has given all of his time to the job of supplying New Testaments for service men and women. For many months before his appointment to the new position, Mr. Blair worked closely with the American Bible Society through the Service Men's Bible Committee which he had formed in Pasadena. This committee has already raised over \$30,000 for Testaments for the armed forces.

Under the direction of the Pacific District office, Mr. Blair will supervise the Society's distribution and promotion of income in southern California. Welcome to the Bible House family, Alfred G. Blair!

Increase in Bible Reading by Young People

A YEAR ago we reported in these pages the findings of a Gallup poll that revealed an upward trend in Bible reading in this country. At the Society's request, another poll was recently taken, which reveals that, whereas a year ago only 48 percent of all civilians between the ages of 21 and 29 had read the Bible at any time during the previous twelve months, today the proportion is considerably higher—57 percent. Readership of the Bible grows more frequent as people become older. Of those between 30 and 49 years of age, 60 percent have read the Bible within the past year; of those 50 years old or more, 71 percent. The latter age groups have shown no increase in Bible reading comparable to the increase among young people.

Throughout the country as a whole, more than six persons in every ten (64 percent) have read the Bible during the past year, as compared with 59 percent in the previous survey covering the year 1942. One person in every ten claims to read the Bible daily.

Women are more constant Bible readers than men; and farmers read it more regularly than city folk. The highest proportion of Bible readers is found in the South, the survey indicates, with the Middle West second. The New England and Middle Atlantic states rank lowest in reading of the Bible.

The New Testament is apparently a little more popular than the Old, judging by the survey results, although the difference in the vote is slight.

When people were asked what book or part of the Bible they think is the most interesting, 29 percent mentioned the Old Testament, and the rest were unwilling to express a choice.



Editorial Comment



BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis
Carr Stifler, Secretary, Bible
House, Park Avenue and
57th Street, New York



VOL. 89 MARCH 1944 No. 3

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

THE regular work of the Society goes on unabated in spite of the ever-mounting demands made by the war. Chaplain Karl A. Eberhardt, of the Queens General Hospital and the Triboro Tuberculosis Hospital in Jamaica, Long Island, writes on the receipt of a shipment of Bibles, Testaments, and Portions for his work:

The quiet confident attitude of many of our patients as they face crisis in their lives, is ample evidence that the power of God is at work in their lives. Your literature has been responsible for a large part of this spirit. It has brought them closer to God.

A FRIEND in Pennsylvania, after listening to one of the Society's broadcasts for four months, sent two dollars with this earnest note:

Would you please mail me a Bible. I want one awfully bad. I have wanted one for a long time. Every time I heard you speak on "The Changeless Bible," my heart bled for one, but I never had any money. So I just up and sold some chickens to get it. Please see what you can do for me. I have poor vision, and would like one in heavier print. Don't disappoint me. I want a Bible more than anything in this world.

I don't know anything about a Bible, so I cannot help you much in a selection. I have two children, ten and fourteen. If you knew nothing about a Bible and had two children, which one would you choose? Your efforts are more than appreciated. I only wish I could send you more. Thank you so much.

An International Broadcast

IN addition to the four coast-to-coast broadcasts given in celebration of last Bible Sunday over the major networks by Bishop Henry St. George Tucker, President Homer P. Rainey, Bishop Walter W. Peele, and Senator Charles O. Andrews, Station WLW of Cincinnati presented to its host of listeners throughout the Middle West the first international program in observance of the occasion. The Rev. James Platt, home superintendent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, spoke by transcription from London and was introduced by the Rev. Nelson M. Burroughs, rector of Christ Church, Cincinnati. Dr. Burroughs spoke briefly of the increased responsibility of both Societies because of the war and the impending opportunities of peace, concluding with these words: "Hands across the sea! Hands and hearts and heads working, that the words of God, the Word of God, may cross all seas, and ring 'round the whole earth."

IN a letter which was read to the Chicago Rotary Club at its meeting during the week of the great Bible crusade there, Chaplain Hansel H. Tower of the Navy wrote:

One of my duties in the South Pacific was to fly over outposts and drop all kinds of reading material, which included, as well as the popular secular magazines, religious journals and the Bible as well. On several occasions letters of thanks were sent to me by the men on these outposts, and they expressed greater gratitude for the receipt of the Holy Scriptures than for any of the other pieces of reading matter.

AS this issue goes to press, Dr. Ralph Mortensen, the Society's recently elected Secretary for China, is on his way to his field via South America,

Africa, and India. Marooned for several weeks, waiting for passage from Buenos Aires, he writes: "I am the happiest man in the world because I am going back to my work in China."

FROM February 14 to March 5, the city of Cleveland, Ohio, will be engaged in a city-wide Bible crusade in which the American Bible Society is cooperating. Emphasis will be laid upon the regular reading of the Bible and the responsibility of every loyal American to make the Bible available throughout the world.

January Meeting of the Board

THE ninth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-eighth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, January 6, 1944, at 3:30 p.m., Vice President William Jay Schieffelin in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Ray Clarke Tillinghast.

The minutes of the eighth stated meeting of the year were presented and approved.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

It was reported that during the third quarter of 1943, a total of 1,564,621 volumes of Scripture were distributed which is an increase of 278,441 volumes over the same period of 1942.

The death on December 3, 1943, of Rev. David Evans, D.D., secretary of the Buffalo City and Erie County Bible Society, was reported.

The meeting was adjourned.

Form of a Bequest to the Society

I give and bequeath to the American Bible Society formed in New York in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen, and incorporated in the year eighteen hundred and forty-one, the sum of ———.

If real estate is given, for the last three words above, "the sum of," substitute the words "the following property, to wit."

Officers, Managers, and Agencies of the American Bible Society

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JOHN T. MANSON
Vice Presidents

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TERM—1940 TO 1944 Roscoe C. E. Brown, Litt.D. George Woolsey, M.D. Wm. Albert Harbison James T. Van Steenberg Samuel H. Libby John J. Leu Everett Smith Graham Stewart	TERM—1941 TO 1945 Orrin R. Judd Jeremiah R. Van Brunt Ward Melville Edward H. Hume, M.D. Fred Herrigel, Jr. C. E. Leavers Harry Hodges Helena M. Babbage Frank C. Goodman	TERM—1942 TO 1946 Daniel Burke, LL.D. Elisabeth B. Cutting James M. Stuart Howard Whittemore Stetson Baker John Binns W. H. Ochiltree C. L. Hsia, Ph.D. Henry Greaves	TERM—1943 TO 1947 George D. Beattys Arlando Marine Franklin S. Edmonds James R. Joy, LL.D. Silas F. Hallock, M.D. Ray Clarke Tillinghast S. Frederick Telleen Arthur Y. Meeker Mrs. Herrick B. Young Hurnard J. Kenner
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Rev. R. S. Inglis, D.D. Prof. Oswald T. Allis, Ph.D., D.D. Bishop F. J. McConnell, Ph.D., D.D. Prof. J. Newton Davies, S.T.D. Rev. Ernest Brennecke, Ph.D.	Ministerial Members of the Board Rev. John Sutherland Bonnell, D.D. Bishop Herbert Welch, D.D., LL.D. Rev. Mark A. Dawber, D.D. Prof. Burton S. Easton, Ph.D., D.D. Prof. Edwin E. Calverley, Ph.D.	Rev. Herman N. Morse, D.D. Rev. Edwin W. Smith, D.D. Rev. James P. Gillespie Rev. A. L. Warnshuis, D.D. Dr. P. H. J. Lerrigo
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In the United States—Districts and Depositories

District and Division Secretaries

<i>Eastern</i> —New York, North New Jersey Frank H. Mann, M.A., Bible House, New York 22 <i>Atlantic</i> —Pennsylvania, Delaware, South New Jersey Rev. G. G. Dilworth, D.D., 701 Walnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa. <i>National Capital</i> —Maryland, District of Columbia Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 E. Franklin St., Baltimore 2, Md. <i>South Atlantic</i> —Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina Rev. I. S. McElroy, Jr., Central Nat. Bk. Bldg., Richmond 19, Va. <i>Southern</i> —Georgia, So. Carolina, Florida, Tenn., Alabama, Miss. Rev. B. H. Smith, 85 Walton St., Atlanta 3, Ga.	<i>Central</i> —Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky Rev. G. B. Cameron, 519 Main St., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. <i>Northwestern</i> —Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak. Rev. Robert T. Taylor, D.D., 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill. <i>Southwestern</i> —Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana Rev. Frank W. Langham, 1914 Main St., Dallas 1, Tex. <i>Rocky Mt.</i> —Colo., Neb., Kan., Utah, Wyo., Mont., Idaho, N. Mex., Ariz. Rev. Henry H. Ragatz, 650 Seventeenth Street, Denver 2, Colo. <i>Pacific</i> —California, Washington, Ore., Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii Rev. R. W. Bayless, D.D., 224 McAllister St., San Francisco 2, Calif.
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Divisions of the Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States

<i>Atlanta</i> —Georgia, So. Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tenn. Rev. D. H. Stanton, D.D., 56 Gammon Ave., S. E., Atlanta, Ga. <i>Charlotte</i> —No. Carolina, Virginia, W. Va., D. C., Maryland Rev. J. S. N. Tross, Ph.D., D.D., 329 S. Brevard St., Charlotte 1, N. C.	<i>Cleveland</i> —Ohio, Pa., N. Y., N. J., Del., Mich., Ind., Ill., Mo., Ky. Rev. V. C. Hodges, D.D., 5424 Woodland Ave., Cleveland 4, Ohio. <i>Dallas</i> —Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas Rev. G. A. Hobart Sheppard, D.D., 2549 Elm St., Dallas 1, Texas.
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Depositories—To Which Orders for Scriptures Should Be Sent

<i>New York City</i> —Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St. <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i> —85 Walton St. <i>Chicago, Illinois</i> —35 E. Wacker Drive <i>Dallas, Texas</i> —1914 Main St. <i>San Francisco, California</i> —224 McAllister St.	New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va. No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi. Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kan. Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico. Wash., Ore., Calif., Nevada, Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Utah, Ariz., Alaska, Hawaii.
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Foreign Agencies

<i>West Indies</i> —Rev. James Innes, Neptuno 629, Havana, Cuba. <i>Mexico</i> —Sr. H. T. Marroquin, Apartado 1373, Mexico City. <i>Caribbean</i> —Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristobal, Canal Zone. <i>Upper Andes</i> —John Ritchie, Apartado 448, Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru. <i>La Plata</i> —Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Paraná 471, Buenos Aires, Argentina.	<i>Brazil</i> —Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Bible House, Avenida Erasmo Braga No. 12, Rio de Janeiro. <i>Bible Lands Agency, North</i> —Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, Box 747, Beirut, Syria. <i>Bible Lands Agency, South</i> —Mr. H. Athanasian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt.	<i>Philippines</i> —Rev. W. H. Fonger, Box 755, Bible House, No. 636 Isaac Peral, Manila. <i>Thailand (Siam)</i> —Rev. Robert O. Franklin (on furlough) 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok. <i>China</i> —Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, M.A., Bible House, 58 Hongkong Road, Shanghai. <i>Japan Bible Society</i> —Mr. T. Tanaka, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo, Japan.
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State Bible Societies Cooperating with the American Bible Society

<i>Maine</i> —Rev. Hammond I. Peterson, 19 Pine St., Portland 4. <i>New Hampshire</i> —Edward A. Dame, 24 Warren St., Concord. <i>Vermont</i> —Rev. Stanley B. Hyde, 189 South Winsoski Ave., Burlington. <i>Massachusetts</i> —Rev. F. K. Singiser, D.D., 41 Bromfield St., Boston 8.	<i>Connecticut</i> —Rev. S. W. Raymond, 278 Farmington Ave., Hartford 5. <i>Rhode Island</i> —Rev. Selden R. McCurdy, D.D., 144 Westminster St., Providence 3. <i>Maryland</i> —Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 E. Franklin St., Baltimore 2.
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Here is Bread you cast upon the waters

The New York Times (U.S.)

7 Fliers Converted by Island Natives Whom Missionaries Made Christians

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALAMEDA, Calif., Oct. 22—Stanley W. Tefft, 25, an aerial gunner from Toledo, Ohio, disclosed today that natives made Christians by American missionaries before the war on a South Pacific island had won seven converts among Navy fliers who had been shot down in combat with the Japanese.

The gunner, who is at the Naval Air Station here recuperating from wounds, was sure of his facts because he was one of the converts. With two companions, Lieut. Edward Peck of Shreveport, La., and Radioman Jeff Scott of Garden City, Kan., he reached the island on a raft after two and a half days at sea.

For the next eighty-seven days they hid on the Japanese-occupied island, watched over by the natives whose first act was to give them a Bible.

"That and our experiences made us Christians," Tefft said. "Every night they would gather around us and we took turns reading the Bible. They sang songs which we knew, such as 'Red River Valley' and 'Carry Me Back to Ole Virginia.' When we left them they were beginning to learn 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home.'"

The other converts were Lieut. Ben H. King from Arkansas, pilot, and Ensign Joe Mitchell of Davidson, Okla., and two members of the crew of their plane who also found refuge on the island.

Their presence was known to the 200 natives, Tefft said, but the Japanese patrols never found it out. All put out on rafts and were picked up by Navy planes.

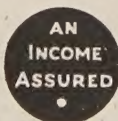
"The only thing that brought us back was faith," concluded the gunner. "You can tell the world that I am now a devout Christian."

Every penny you ever contributed to support foreign missions—every portion of the New Testament you made it possible to distribute—is coming back to you in American lives and souls saved. Friendly natives are helping so many of our boys, history will have to give Christian missions credit for hastening victory in the Pacific!

Let us carry on this work of Bible distribution with renewed zeal. Do your part—give today!

You help greatly when you purchase an American

Bible Society Annuity Agreement, which, in turn, greatly helps you. Under this plan, which has never failed in the one hundred years of its operation, you share in the great work of distributing the Bible, and at the same time receive an assured income as long as you live. Learn more about this unusual plan; how it can fit your needs; how, too, it entitles you to certain tax exemptions—and how it enables you both to give and receive generously. Send now for the interesting booklet *A Gift That Lives*.



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